UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.196/Add.3
24 June 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

DRAFT REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Addendum

D. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (agenda item 10)

1. In accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 46/45, the Committee took up the consideration of the above item.

2. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology were yielding substantial benefits in many fields. The Committee noted that spin-offs of space technology were providing new techniques for the field of industrial measurement and control, image and data processing, non-destructive testing, temperature control and vacuum systems, computer systems, special materials and chemicals, food safety, water treatment and refrigeration.

3. The Committee noted that the importance of spin-off benefits was growing rapidly. The Committee also noted the importance of international cooperation in developing spin-off benefits of space technology and in ensuring that all countries, in particular developing countries, had access to those benefits.

4. The Committee agreed that there was a need to examine ways to strengthen and enhance international cooperation in the field of spin-off benefits of space technology, through, inter alia, improved means of providing access to spin-offs for all countries, giving particular attention to those spin-offs which could address the social and economic needs of developing countries.

5. The Committee took note of a working paper submitted by China on spin-off benefits of space technology (A/AC.105/L.194).

6. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations could contribute to the development of improved procedures for disseminating

spin-off benefits. They felt that the question of spin-offs was linked to the consideration in the Legal Subcommittee of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

7. The Committee recommended that it continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

E. Other matters

8. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its Subcommittees by the representatives of FAO, IAEA, ITU, WMO, UNESCO, UNIDO, ESA, INTELSAT, INTERCOSMOS, INTERSPUTNIK, COSPAR, IAF, ILA and ISPRS. The Committee expressed its appreciation to those organizations that had submitted reports on their activities and requested that concerned organizations continue to keep it informed of their activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

9. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should invite Member States to submit annual reports on their space activities. In addition to information on national and international space programmes, the reports could include information in response to requests from the Working Group of the Whole as well as information on spin-off benefits of space activities and other topics as requested by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

F. Future work

10. The Committee noted the views expressed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as contained in paragraphs 113 to 116 of its report (A/AC.105/514), and endorsed the recommendations contained in those paragraphs concerning the agenda of the thirtieth session of the Subcommittee.

11. The view was expressed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should review its agenda and, in view of the limited time available, reduce the number of agenda items considered at each session, perhaps by discussing some items every other year.

12. Regarding the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee recommended that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-second session, should:

(a) Continue, through its Working Group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of ITU;

(b) Continue, through its Working Group, consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

(c) [To be added.]

13. The Committee recalled its recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee, on a permanent basis, should rotate each year the order of consideration of substantive agenda items.

14. The Committee took note of the measures that had been adopted at the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee in order to improve utilization of conference services. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Subcommittee that a similar organization of work would serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee's thirty-second session.

G. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

15. The Committee indicated the following tentative timetable for 1993:

	Dates	Site
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	16-26 February	New York
Legal Subcommittee	22 March-8 April	New York
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	7-18 June	New York

H. Tribute

16. On the occasion of the appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Flavio Miragaia Perri, to his new function as Executive Secretary of the National Working Group for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the members of the Committee expressed their sincere congratulations and deep gratitude for his many years of dedicated service to the Committee.